23rd January 1928]

Jails

Alleged ill-treatment of Neill statue satyagrahis.

* 1279 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the young men who offered 'satyagraha' at the Neill statue are treated with exceptional severity in jails;

(*b*) whether they are subjected to physical ill-treatment;

(*c*) whether any Jail officials have been in the habit of inducing them to apologise and get released on the pain of brutal ill-treatment as a consequential alternative; and

(*d*) whether these young men are given stale and evil-smelling food during their stay in jails?

A.—(*a*) to (*d*) No.

Alleged humiliation of Neill statue satyagrahis.

* 1280 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a batch of Neill statue satyagrahis, aged between about 18 and 25 years, were taken to the Egmore railway station on the evening of 10th October 1927 by an escort of three constables;

(*b*) whether every one of these prisoners was hand-cuffed and whether they were being held by long iron chains rivetted to the hand-cuffs, the other end of the chains being held by the constables; and whether the constables were fully armed while escorting the prisoners;

(*c*) whether the three *satyagrahis* were dressed in complete khaddar wearing Gandhi caps as well while being so escorted by the police;

(*d*) whether there was any need for this special humiliation and whether any of this batch or the previous batches gave any trouble to their jailors or ever attempted to escape from custody; and

(*e*) whether the object of this humiliating treatment was to bring khaddar dress into contempt in the eyes of the people?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) There was no special humiliation. The prisoners were hand-cuffed and escorted in accordance with the general rules laid down for the escort of convicts.

(*e*) No; prisoners on transfer, or when attending courts, are invariably dressed in private clothing.

Number of Mappillas and non-Mappillas taking their families to Andamans.

* 1281 Q.—K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Mappilla and non-Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans who have made applications from April 1923 up to the end of March 1927 requesting the authorities to permit them to take their families to the Andamans annually;